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Gloucester, England, has an interesting series of articles, printed in a local journal. In a discussion of the "Dowsing," or Divining-Rod, he observes that originally the rod would not work unless consecrated with proper ceremonies; as, for example, using only a twig of an ash-tree in which a live shrew mouse had been wedged and left to die. He considers that the professors of this art are usually in error, and no more successful than would be a clever guesser. The old English custom of "Beating the Bounds" is still kept up in many English communities: the origin the writer reasonably seeks in the time when not the individual, but the clan, was the unit of society; each kindred marked out its limits as against other kindreds, just as now individuals protect themselves against others. In noticing the tales which make the younger son a hero, Mr. Sessions brings this feature in connection with the superior right of the younger son, still maintained in the case of intestate estates in Gloucester.

To the very learned paper of Professor Sheldon on the names of the letters are added "Further Notes." Possibly some readers of this Journal may recollect that in their childish recitation the letter A was called a-bis-self-a (for A by itself A), and how the sign "&" stood at the end of the alaphabet as ampersand (et-per-se-and). The greater part of the discussion is out of our sphere.

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